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Wednesday, February 6,1952.

Tommy and David Nes arrived at the house this morning, before I had really rallied myself for the day, with a telegram from the Department instructing me to see M. Schuman at once and try to get him to cancel instructions he had given to M. François-Poncet in regard to the Saar matter. After much telephoning around, notably to Messrs. McCloy and Gifford, I went to see M. Schuman, and Phil Bonsal called on M. Parodi for the same purpose. M. Schuman said he thought there was some misunderstanding on our part regarding this affair. He had instructed François Poncet to reply unofficially, to a German unofficial initiative which had prompted his action, to the effect that the French Government would accept a proposal, if made by the German Government, for an immediate exchange of views to settle the definitive political status of the Saar by special treaty, without awaiting the negotiation of a final German peace treaty. He elaborated on this theme in considerable

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detail, and we got off a message which I hope will calm down the present intense excitement on the subject.

I had a sandwich in the office, [redacted] then Perle Mesta came to see me. We talked politics.

Princess Sturdza called on me. She is engaged in a series of lawsuits affecting considerable properties in France, Belgium and elsewhere. She is one of my oldest friends in France, but this is only the second time I have seen her in twenty-five years.

I had a talk with Lane Timmons this afternoon about his future. It seems likely he will sometime be made a Mission chief, but I urged him to follow his intention to take the Foreign Service examinations so eventually he could be transferred over to the State Department.

I was to dine with General Vanier tonight, a stag affair he was giving for the heads of all the United Nations delegations. However, it was called off because of the ~~death of King George VI,~~ [redacted] announced this morning. This is really very sad, for he was only 56 and, I thought, on the few occasions I saw him, an extraordinarily nice fellow. He was a fine shot. The last time I saw him was at Audrey Bouverie's

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house in London, a year or two ago, [redacted] we had a long chat about a variety of subjects, especially American ones. [redacted]

[redacted]

Bill Draper, Averell Harriman, Henry Tasca and Harry Labouisse met me in the office, and we discussed the French situation in some detail. Afterwards, Averell came to the house with me; [redacted] we dined together and had a good talk.

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